CHURCH HISTORY

Chapter 30 - The Protestant Churches Fight for Their Lives, 1546-1648

1. *Charles V Tries to Uproot the Reformation*
    a. *To understand the bitter struggle which was about to take place between the Catholics and the Protestants we shall have to review some things we already know.*
    b. *In 1546, the year that Luther died, Charles launched his attack on the Protestants.*
    c. *Charles even captured Wittenberg, the place where Luther had started the Reformation, and where he had lived and labored.*
2. *The Reformation Movement Halts*
    a. *the Reformation movement was brought to a dead standstill because:*
        i. *Luther's stand in the Peasants' War of 1525 - the lower classes turned their backs upon Luther and the Reformation*
        ii. *The influence of the Anabaptists - some of the early Anabaptists were fanatics - This caused many of the upper classes to re-main in the Roman Church*
        iii. *The division among the Protestants - To choose intelligently and sincerely between Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin required prayerful study and thinking. The Romanists induced many who were too lazy and indifferent or unable to think for themselves to stay in the Roman Church, and let the Church do the thinking for them*
        iv. *The misapplication of Luther's central doctrine of justification by faith alone without good works*
        v. *The separation of the Protestants*
3. *A Revitalized Catholicism*
    a. *Major cause for the slowing down of the Reformation movement was the reform and revitalizing of the Roman Church*
    b. *It had equipped itself with three new and powerful weapons: the Index, the Spanish Inquisition, and the Order of Jesuits, organized by the Spaniard* Ignatius Loyola.
    c. *The name Counter Reformation is often given to these various factors which checked the progress of the Reformation and won back much of the territory and prestige which the Catholic Church had lost*
4. *The Huguenots Fight for Their Lives, 1562-1629*
    a. *The protecting shield of the Peace of Augsburg covered only the Lutheran Protestants in Germany. It did not cover the Calvinistic Protestants in France and the Netherlands.*
    b. *No fewer than two thousand Protestants were murdered in Paris, and, as the massacre extended to other cities, over ten thousand throughout the country.*
    c. *It was a three-cornered conflict between three Henry's: Henry of Guise, the Catholic leader; King Henry III, who tried to follow a moderate course; and Henry of Bourbon and Navarre, the Protestant leader.*
    d. *Because most of the people were Catholic and would not tolerate a Protestant king, Henry declared himself a Catholic in 1593 and in 1594 entered Paris in triumph as King Henry IV. Though no longer a Protestant, Henry did not forget his former comrades. In 1598 he issued the Edict of Nantes, which granted the Huguenots freedom of private worship, civil rights, and the right to public worship in two hundred towns and three thousand castles. Henry IV was assassinated in 1610 and the kingdom was again torn by warring factions. Many of the finest citizens of France fled to other countries and to the New World.*
5. *The Protestants in the Netherlands, 1568-1609*
    a. *Protestants were burned at the stake as heretics in Italy, Spain, France, England, and Scotland*
    b. *Following that, from 1 562 to 1648, the Protestants had to wage war for their very existence*
6. *The Thirty Years' War in Germany*
    a. *Since 1555 Germany, under the terms of the Peace of Augsburg, had been enjoying comparative peace. Then, in 1618, the Peace of Augsburg was broken.*
    b. *Martyrdom was suffered mainly by the Calvinistic Protestants, and it was they who from 1562 to 1618 bore the brunt of the war against the Catholics*
    c. *During these years German, Danish, and Swedish Lutherans and the Dutch Calvinists defended the Protestant cause.*
7. *The Boundaries Become Fixed*
    a. *When the wars between Catholics and Protestants came to an end with the Peace of Westphalia in 1648, the geographical extent of the Roman and Protestant churches had become fairly well fixed.*